

Upstate Forever

Promoting Sensible Growth and
Protecting Special Places in the Upstate

April 19, 2011

Gina Kirkland
Department of Health and Environmental Control
Water Quality Standards Coordinator
Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Kirkland,

Upstate Forever supports the proposal to reclassify Pickens County's Reedy Cove Creek, in its entirety, from Freshwater to Outstanding Resource Water. In the mid-1990's, the SC Department of Natural Resources studied the area and determined that all waters in the vicinity of Reedy Cove were of high quality (TW or ORW), but high quality status could not be granted for Reedy Cove Creek because of a single treated sewage discharge from Camp McCall.

In 2008, Camp McCall removed this discharge and transitioned to a different method of wastewater treatment. Other efforts are also underway to reduce the thermal influence of the Camp's small lake to improve trout habitat downstream. Now, we have the opportunity to provide some protection for this truly outstanding resource.

Twin Falls, an easily accessible and much-visited waterfall on Reedy Cove Creek, contributes to the local tourism economy of northern Pickens County. In addition, much of the waterway is within the boundaries of Jocassee Gorges, another pristine area for public recreation. For the future of Pickens County and to protect its tourism economy and its citizens' quality of life, it is essential that this outstanding resource be afforded the classification that best reflects its current condition.

Sincerely,



Laura L. Garrett
Rural Waters Project Associate
Upstate Forever

